

Can We Create A Turning Point? with Charlie Kirk

(June 17, 2022)

Ladies and gentlemen, I've been speaking at college campuses, about 15-20 a year, since 2007. And the reason I go there is because the college campus is probably the most anti-Christian piece of real estate in the United States of America. So, when we go there and conduct an I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist session - and it takes our team and the Christian host group on campus to do so - we're going there to throw a lifeline to the Christian students who attend and we're there to put a stone in the shoe of the skeptics who show up.

Now one of the problems is that there are too few people out there doing this that are bringing truth to the college campus. So, when I find someone who is, and is doing it remarkably effectively, I want to tell you about this person. He's my friend, Charlie Kirk. He heads an organization called Turning Point USA, which also has a faith element to it called Turning Point Faith. We'll get into that. Now Turning Point USA has thousands of college groups ladies and gentlemen, and it's only 10 years old. And believe it or not, Charlie started this when he was 18. So, he's 28 now and he's wise beyond his years.

And let me just tell you a couple of things he's doing right now. He's doing about three hours of radio podcasts per day. It's called The Charlie Kirk Show, which you can access wherever you hear podcasts. He covers all sorts of issues on there from politics to medicine, to the news of the day, and also apologetics and theology. And one of the things I love about Charlie is he's not afraid to speak the truth, particularly the gospel in any venue, whether the President of the United States is there, or just a college student is there, he's gonna preach the truth, whether it's a college campus event, a political rally. Doesn't matter, he's going to do it. And I want you to know about him, and I want you to know about what he's doing, because the world is getting darker and when you find somebody out there who's putting out a light, a bright light, you want to tell people about it. So, here's my friend, Charlie Kirk, ladies and gentlemen. Charlie, how are you?



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Charlie:

I'm great, Frank. Thank you. And I want to just kind of throwback the compliments to you and CrossExamined. I'm a huge fan of what you are doing. I'm here to help in any way I can. I first became aware of you on YouTube. And also, I remember I just got done speaking at Washington State University in Pullman, Washington - I was actually spending the night in Spokane - and I opened up public access television, I'm not sure why, and it was one of your sessions and seminars. And I was like, I recognize that guy from YouTube. And I got to listening to your stuff and it's been an amazing blessing just to get to know you the last couple years. And I have a feeling the Lord has more synergies in store for both of us.

Frank:

Absolutely, brother. Hey, tell our group here, our listening audience here and our viewing audience, how you became a Christian. How did this happen?

Charlie:

I gave my life to the Lord in fifth grade. And it was at Christian Heritage Academy, a wonderful school founded by the legendary Wayne Grudem, actually. He started Christian Heritage Academy way back when.

Frank:

Oh really?

Charlie:

Yeah. He wasn't there when I was there. But Wayne is a great guy. I've had the opportunity to get to know him here in Phoenix. He's just amazing. So, Christian Heritage Academy is in Northfield, Illinois. I had some amazing teachers that did a great job of presenting the gospel. And I remember very vividly just raising my hand to be like, I want to sign up for that. I'm ready to make Jesus Christ the Chairman of the Board of my life. Now, every year as I've gotten older, that means more and more to me as I realized how messed up we all are, and how inevitable our sins are, and how, you know, all of a sudden, the Gospel just kind of becomes this living experience. It's amazing. So, it was interesting, I went to a Bible believing church, and you know, just it's the most important thing in my life. But growing up, I was always told that

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politics and faith are two separate things. And I've had that belief for quite a long time, up until recently.

But the most important thing in my life is the gospel of Jesus Christ and trying to get people back into talking about their faith openly and candidly. I'm, you know, in the political world. I'm kind of used to saying things you're not supposed to say, I guess, and having people react to that. I'm just stunned at how some people are afraid to share their belief in Jesus Christ and in God, and in the Bible, and the truth of the Bible, and so, that's why I'm a Christian. And honestly, Frank, people like you and Lee Strobel offered a whole different dimension, for me personally, that I was not exposed to. I had an experiential conversion to Jesus, it renewed my soul, and I felt, and I knew at a fundamental level that this was true.

However, when I became aware of your ministry, and also of The Case for Christ, then Habermas and just these legends in the movement, I was all of a sudden blown away because I like to use my reason. As it says in Isaiah one, reason is a gift from God. He gave it to us for a particular purpose. And so, just being able to realize that there's so much archaeological evidence, and there's so much historical evidence for the gospel, just made me more committed to share the truths of the Bible and to push back against lies wherever they might pop up their head.

Frank:

Now, how did you start Turning Point USA? I mean, you were only 18 years old, you just graduated high school, you decided to take a gap year, which as you say, has turned into 10 years. So, how did this all begin, Charlie?

Charlie:

Yeah. It began clumsily. But yeah, it started 10 years ago, in June of 2012. No money, no connections, no idea what I was doing. I've always loved politics, I love my country, I've always been just kind of into those types of arguments of good versus evil and right versus wrong. Some people stray away from that stuff. I just gravitate towards it. I've always been that way. And so, I started Turning Point USA believing that our generation, the younger generation, was not getting proper education when it came to American history, civics government, and so, we started as an education movement. Now, 10 years later, we're still the same education

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movement. We do a lot of different things now, 10 years later, that we were not doing 10 years ago, but it's just been this remarkable journey and process. At every single corner, God's blessing has just been overwhelming and abundant.

Frank:

What's the overall mission of TP, USA? What are you trying to do? How are you accomplishing this mission?

Charlie:

Yeah, I mean, our big picture vision - and people laugh when I say it. They don't laugh as much now because it's desperately needed. We want to help save Western civilization. We believe Western civilization is an outgrowth of the Bible, the revolution of self-government, separation of powers, consent of the governed, independent judiciary, this idea that individuals can go to church without the government telling them what to do. This is a uniquely Western experiment and we're afraid that we're losing it. But our mission is to go about through, you know, a mission of education on high school and college campuses. We want young people to love America again and we do that in a variety of different ways.

We believe our nation is one that is worthy of study and appreciation. We believe that gratitude is something that is lacking in our nation right now. In fact, we believe gratitude is one of the great lessons of the Bible that is not always talked about in Christian circles and that we have to go above and beyond to thank the Lord that we're able to live in such an amazing Constitutional Republic. And I believe a lot of the radicalism and a lot of the kind of dangerous revolutionary ideas we're seeing right now, Frank, in our nation is an outgrowth of the lack of gratitude. When you are not thankful for something, then you're going to want to dramatically change that something. You're thankful when you appreciate it, you study it, and you are able to receive proper education. So, you know, no pressure. At Turning Point USA we're trying to save the West.

Frank:

Just a small little goal there. By the way, what you say about thankfulness is so critical. In fact, Paul talks about this in Romans chapter one where he talks about how people suppress the truth and unrighteousness to go their own way. And it says, even though they know God exists,

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they don't give thanks (Romans 1:21). And that's one of the critical problems. I think you've nailed it there, Charlie. When you're not giving thanks, you are going to be sour, you're going to be dour, you're going to be angry, you're going to be aggressive. And we see that so much in our society today. We live in a society that has every earthly advantage, every material advantage. I mean, who could dream of a place like this and yet we're angry, we're bitter, we're cancelling one another, and it's just awful. What can we do about it?

Well, Charlie Kirk is gonna give us some insights on how to do that. In fact, he's got an exciting new initiative that you're going to want to know about. I want to know about it. I want to help with it and maybe you will too. You're listening to I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist with me, Frank Turek, on the American Family Radio Network. My guest is Charlie Kirk of The Charlie Kirk Show. The website is CharlieKirk.com. Check it out. We're back in two minutes. Don't go anywhere.

If you're low on the FM dial looking for National Public Radio go no further. We're actually going to tell you the truth here. I can guarantee you you're never going to hear this on NPR. We're trying to save Western civilization here ladies and gentlemen. That's what my friend, Charlie Kirk, is trying to do through his organization Turning Point USA and Turning Point USA Faith as well. We'll get into that.

And just before the break, Charlie, we were talking about the lack of thankfulness out there. You have been going to college campuses for several years as well. Now, when you go to a college campus, what message are you bringing in? What kind of response do you get?

Charlie:

Yeah. Let me just say one more thing about gratitude. A couple of years ago, I was just kind of not as happy as I would want to be, and I said: Who in my life is the happiest? And I decided to just kind of go ask them questions. The thankful were the most happy people. The people that were always saying thank you to the Lord, they had gratitude journals. And so, the teachings of the Bible are always true. And so, anyone who's listening this right now and they're just grumpy, or they're not themselves, just make gratitude a daily practice, and go out of your way to say thank you, first and foremost, to God, to people. I think it's super important.

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So yeah, actually, that's part of the message I bring to college campuses because I believe that college campuses are ingratitude factories. They're experts at it. Everything a college campus teaches you is that you have to put on a new lens. They call it the woke, right. You have to awaken to the systemic injustices, or problems, or inequities, and that you really shouldn't be thankful. Like, yeah, you might be thankful you live in this constitutional republic, but did you know it's colonialist, homophobic, racist, bigoted? Like, well, maybe I actually hate this place. Maybe I shouldn't be, you know, thankful that I'm an American, or thankful to God that He placed me in this time.

And so, look, I speak on a lot of college campuses, you do too, Frank. I've done well over 100 in the last five years, every corner of the country. I think you've probably done a similar amount, from Berkeley, to Boulder, to Stanford, to Brown, to University of Minnesota, you name it, I've been there. I haven't been to every campus, but I've been to every type of school, right; small, big, large, private, Christian, secular, public, you name it. And so, you know, it's interesting, I'm always learning when I go to these campuses more than I'm teaching. And I say that not that they're teaching me something that's going to be super interesting and they're going to change my mind, but I'm learning as to what they're believing, right.

Because, you know this, the art of persuasion is if you're trying to convince somebody of something, and they either already believe it or they're never going to believe it, then you got to know your target audience. And my main message is simple, which is, you live in a country that is worthy of study, appreciation, and gratitude. There is a God who made you, who loves you, and that liberty is not man's idea, it's God's idea. Liberty is not being able to do whatever you want to do whatever you want to do it. Liberty is not getting drunk with your friends until you pass out. Liberty is not doing marijuana until you can't see straight. Liberty is doing what you ought to do. Liberty is the pursuit of virtue and that that actually will set you free. And that our system of government is under attack from within. And I sometimes personalize it, what's going on in a local community, state, or area, and then we open up for questions. And if you disagree, you get to go to the front of the line. And that's where the real fun starts.

Frank:

And so, what area do you get most of the objections from? Is it from the people that want to push a new kind of sexual freedom that really isn't new anymore? It's been on our country since

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the 1960s. Is that the angle from which you get most of the objections? Because I would say I probably get most of the objections from that angle too. Where are you getting the objections from, Charlie?

Charlie:

Yeah, I would say recently, for sure. You know, Frank, having done this for five years, I'm sure you have a similar experience. Five years ago, there was not a question, a protest, or an activist that even would think of the word trans. It wasn't a thing, right. I used to get objections on socialism, tax rates eating the rich, and that was kind of the thing in 2017. Our first tour we did, the first time I went on campus officially, the tour was called Smashing Socialism. And now five years later, the big three objections, I have to say; number one would definitely be on the trans issue. Kind of, I get to be whatever I feel I am; my identity is how I chart it, it's my truth, not THE truth. The idea of truth is transphobic. That's like the number one issue recently and lately.

Number two - and this might surprise your listeners, but it actually makes a lot of sense - is the religion of environmentalism. I believe the modern environmentalist movement is pagan at its core. I believe it is Earth worship. That is totally different, by the way, than understanding that God created the heavens and the earth, and that we should preserve and protect it. But we as Christians do have a moral stance of why the earth is there. It's there for the use of human beings and humanity, that we should take dominion over the earth, and that it's there for humans to be able to flourish, not the other way around. College campuses believe that there is - I'm over generalizing, but let's just for argument's sake - a lot of activists on campuses believe that there is a moral equivalent between the tree, and the delta smelt, and a human being. Who are you to say that you're better than the quail? Who are you to say that you're better than the rattlesnake? So, a lot of that kind of environmental Earth worship.

And then the third thing is just general doctrinaire anti-Americanism. This place is terrible. Why are you defending it? Now, they back off of that, because - and I've been so blessed - Hillsdale College has made me into an informed, let's just say cross examiner, to use a term that we're familiar with here, on American history. They are woefully unprepared to talk about the American founders. They just regurgitate talking points on Nicole Hannah Jones. I didn't go to Hillsdale. I didn't go to college, but I've studied closely under their online courses and Dr. Larry Arnn. And I believe they're the great American institution when it comes to teaching American

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history. Bar none, I think they're the greatest. And so, whenever they try to say, Oh, Charlie, the founding fathers were racist. I just kind of smile. I say: Do you really want to do this? You know, this is not good for either of us. Well, it's good for me. I don't know if it'd be good for you. So, those are the three objections I usually get Frank.

Frank:

You hear that ladies and gentlemen? Hillsdale College. And this is not an advertisement. This is just the truth that Charlie himself has been educated by going through their online program. When people ask me: Would you send your high school graduate to college today? I hesitate. I'll tell you. I do, Charlie. I hesitate now. But Hillsdale was a place that I could send them. Maybe Liberty, maybe Houston Baptist, maybe a few places I could send them and not worry that they're going to get a lot of woke ideology. There may be a few others out there. But Charlie, we need to build people up before they go into the lion's den. If we're going to send them out there, Charlie, we've got to do it. And I know you're trying to do that.

Now, you've got a new initiative that's called the Turning Point Academy. What is that? In fact, I saw you talking about it on Fox News earlier today. What's this Turning Point Academy? What are you trying to do here?

Charlie:

Yeah, it's amazing work of the Lord. So, you know, we've been in the education space, as I said, for 10 years. And we're going to remain doing high school chapters, college chapters, digital social media, podcasting, radio, and all of the above. You know, education full court press, as you could say. So, we came up with this idea for Turning Point Academy right after Covid. We saw there was a huge need for it, but we really didn't know how to go about it. Back in February, we had a very specific plan, and a specific partner, of how we were going to try to change education. And the whole thing blew up, Frank. In fact, the Washington Post wrote about it. It was a catastrophe. Not like anything that's, you know, career altering, it was just all this work, and it just blew up. And I remember I turned to one of my co-workers, and I said, If this project is going to work, God's gonna have to raise it from the dead. It was so, kind of, backburner on the shelf like we're done. Like it's gonna have to come to a life of its own.

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A couple of weeks later, Frank, I got a call from a dear pastor friend of mine here in Phoenix. Dream City Church pastor, Luke Barnett - where you're coming out, by the way. We're going to do an event together. TP USA Faith, Freedom Night in America.

Frank:

That's right.

Charlie:

And he [Luke Barnett] said, Charlie, shot in the dark. We have a 600 person school in Glendale, Arizona. We'd love to potentially collaborate with you. Did you ever think of doing an academy at Turning Point? Would you guys like to get in the curriculum space or teacher training thing? I said, here's God doing his thing of raising the idea from the dead.

And so, we sat down with him, and it just clicked. You know, we had a lot of mutual trust. We have been working together for years. We've done some big fun things together. And so, starting this August, it will be Dream City Christian, a Turning Point Academy in Glendale. K-12 with 600 students. The teachers will be thoroughly vetted. We want you, Frank, to come do the apologetics for the high school kids in particular, to get them prepared. We're about to announce two other schools, and you'll be able to hear about it next. Hopefully, sometime soon.

Our vision is to have hundreds of these. And there'll be a mixture of all sorts of different ones; pod schooling, homeschooling, partnership with Christian church schools, as I mentioned here, or just starting new ones altogether. The point is that we want to get into this space urgently, and from a perspective that what the government schools are doing right now are failing our children.

And I'll be honest Frank, I kind of live in a bubble. I deleted all my social media. I'm just blown away by the positive response, the warm messages- you sent me one - of people that say, Thank you, this is so sorely needed. I think it's going to make a big impact. It's really touched me. And just kind of, it's confirmation that God, I think, really wants this project to go right now. And as long as God wants to bless it, we believe this is going to be really successful. So, our vision is to have hundreds of these across the country and that no parent - this is our big

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thing - that never again do I have to hear the excuse from a parent, there's no good school in my zip code. No more. We're going to fix that that it's, Oh, no, I don't want my child to go to the good school in my zip code.

Frank:

And I heard you talking about it, Charlie. You are trying to raise scholarship money as well, to make it accessible to everyone. Now, if there's somebody listening right now, Charlie, you know, they're in Mississippi, or they're in Dallas, or they're in Richmond, or DC, where this show airs, and they want to investigate starting something like this, where do they go?

Charlie:

They can go to TPUSA.com. It's right there on the front page. They'll be able to fill out a form and we'll be in touch with them. So, as I mentioned, we're about to announce two more schools. We have five in the hopper, and we have 50 new prospective ones. Now out of 50, only a fraction will probably end up happening. Now what do I mean by that? These are schools that, some of which are already functioning. But you know, Frank, we get on this call and they say, Charlie, this is confidential, right? You say, Yeah, sure. They say, Charlie, we have the woke pathogen in our school and we need you here to get rid of it. We want to rebrand. We need you here to tell us how to get rid of this idea where, all of a sudden - a Christian school they called us, they said, We walked into our classroom out of nowhere to do, kind of, a quality control audit and the teacher was unfazed by the fact that the principal of the school walks in, and says, You do know that men can become pregnant and that not only women can menstruate. In a Christian school, Frank.

Frank:

Wow.

Charlie:

And they said, Charlie, we need your help getting rid of that. This has gone way too far. So, it's an exciting thing. The website is TPUSA.com.

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Frank:

And when you go to TPAUSA.com, you're also going to find TP USA Faith. What's that, Charlie? We just got about 30 seconds before the break. We could talk more after.

Charlie:

Hey, I know all about radio breaks, so I'll teach people. So, after the break, they'll learn about TP USA Faith, what we're doing. And Frank, you're coming out to our big event, Freedom Night in America. Can't wait to share more of it with your audience.

Frank:

That's right. Freedom Night in America will be at Dream City Church in Phoenix, Arizona July 5, all the details are at TPUSA.com. I also want to mention I'll be substituting for the great Jack Hibbs this weekend Calvary Chapel Chino Hills, June 19. And Southbrook church here in Weddington, North Carolina, June 22. Then Bethany Church, June 26, Wycoff, New Jersey. Check it all out at CrossExamined.org, click on events, you'll see it there. And we're back in just two minutes with my friend Charlie Kirk of the Charlie Kirk show. His website is CharlieKirk.com. Check it out. Back in two.

Ladies and gentlemen, are you frustrated that the school in your area is either too expensive or isn't really teaching the truth? Well, there may be a way out here shortly. That's what my friend Charlie Kirk is spearheading from TPUSA.com, starting the Turning Point Academy. We talked about a little bit in the last segment, but Charlie, tell us a little bit about TP USA Faith. What's that about?

Charlie:

Yeah. So, as I mentioned, I gave my life to the Lord when I was in fifth grade. And I went to a great Bible believing church, so good and such a great impact on my life. But I was taught from a young age - and it was beat into me, and I had all the talking points - you never mention what's happening in the world, news, current events, you do not mention it. You don't mention politics. You don't mention right and wrong. And looking back, it was so silly to even say that out loud, right. You just do the gospel, you just do word by word, verse by verse. And it was really good moral teaching, it was great scriptural teaching, it was phenomenal. Frank. However, I look back and I say, Boy, that's not complete.

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So, I really had that challenge when I met my now pastor, a man by the name of Pastor Rob McCoy, who's also a Calvary pastor and buddies with Jack Hibbs, who actually got me to meet the great Jack Hibbs, who you just said you're filling in for, and I just think the world of. He's special. I watch him every Sunday online. He's just amazing. And he came up to me at an event and he said, Charlie, I love what you're doing politically. I know, you're also a Christian. Why don't you talk about both of them? And I gave kind of a, you know, regular canned response. Well, you know, Rob separation of church and state, and one place in one lane, and we don't do that. And he said, You're wrong. What? What do you mean, you're wrong? And he's like, I want you to come speak at my church. Now I was raised Presbyterian before going to the Bible believing church. The idea of a layman going, like not exactly. And I'm like, what do you mean speak at a church.

Frank:

Do you have a robe, Charlie? You need a robe. You've gotta wear a robe.

Charlie:

That's right. I need to go to Princeton, you know, all this sort of stuff. And so, I go to Rob's church, and I was terrified. I was terrified, because I thought that I was gonna say something wrong, I was just gonna kind of have lightning struck down on me. And that's not an exaggeration in the sense of like, when you've never spoke at a church before, and you've always kind of had this view that what's said from the church is very important, you get very nervous. And I don't get very nervous when I speak, usually, because I've done it so many times.

So, I spoke there, and I was amazed by how Rob shepherded me, and my eyes were opened that the scriptures do talk about how we should care about our nation. The Scriptures do talk about how we should care about what's happening to our community. Jeremiah 29:7, which is so clear. Demand the welfare of the nation that you are in. That word demand is [unintelligible] in the Hebrew. Demand the welfare of the nation that you are in because the welfare of your nation - and that welfare can be shalom or shalom in the Hebrew; peace of - is tied to your nation's welfare.

And I was challenged, I was asked the question: What about Esther, Mordecai, Nehemiah, Daniel, Jeremiah, all these figures in the Old Testament that were influencing secular

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government for God's purpose? What are we supposed to do about them? And I realized that we are in a fight for liberty. And as I said previously, liberty is not man's idea, it is God's idea. And while I am involved in what I believe is the second most important thing a human being can do, I'm very clear about what the first thing is. And the first thing is giving your life to Jesus Christ and getting other people to do the same. The second most important thing is to make sure you could do the first thing, to make sure that churches are not deemed unessential or non-essential. To make sure that churches and schools are not being trampled by vaccine mandates, mask mandates, all these things.

And so, TP USA Faith goes about to try to identify pastors, network with them, train them wherever they are willing on: How do I combat CRT? What is postmodernism? How do I teach the Constitution in my congregation? The center of TP USA Faith is the Nicene creed. That's it. We allow you guys to figure out the theological differences yourself.

Frank, you're coming to our Pastor Summit coming up August, I think, 10th 11th and 12th. We are going to have 350 pastors and their wives from across America. And it's going to be a different type of Pastor Summit. From my experience, I don't think you'll see as much theological diversity as you will see at our Pastor Summit. We will have five point Calvinists, spirit filled Pentecostals, Episcopalians, Presbyterians. You name it, they will be here at that Pastor Summit, because they all agree on liberty, they agree on self-government, and that we have to do something to save our republic. So, that's what our mission is at TP USA Faith.

Frank:

Let me throw one objection at you, Charlie, because I know that there are some pastors out there - and you know, two of my five books are on politics, so I've talked about this on the program quite a bit. But there is an objection out there that goes like this Charlie, if you get too involved in politics, particularly from the pulpit, you're going to turn people off to the gospel. What do you say?

Charlie:

I mean, I totally disagree. I will agree with one part, or acknowledge, that you must have your hierarchies right. Your church should not become a political church, it should be a church first and foremost. But my experience tells a different story. My experience of speaking in over 100

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churches across America is, the more clear and bold a church is on talking about these, they actually see their attendance go up. When you speak at Jack Hibbs' church, they're going to have a seating problem, and Jack has been very clear and very bold on these issues.

And so, look, I think this is actually a tactic of the enemy to try to get the church to not speak as they should on these issues. And so, your heart should never try to turn people off. But let's pretend the gospel turned somebody off. The gospel is a pretty firm message that you must receive Jesus and if you do not eternal damnation awaits you. That could turn somebody off, and so, should we not teach the gospel? And so, my personal perspective is, the church should be less worried about whether or not someone's going to stand up and walk out of their church because they might hear something they don't agree with, and more worried of whether or not they are pursuing truth. But in a paradoxical way, Frank, the more bold you are, and the less you care about your budgets, or your big buildings, or your tithes, the actual more of those things you're going to get.

And I'll say one last thing, which is, when we speak at our Turning Point USA Student Action Summit, we have 7,000 students there from across America, about half are Christians. And then they all of a sudden get a sermon and an altar call they've never heard of before and we have hundreds of kids giving their lives to the Lord. I want to ask any church in the country: Are you able to minister to those kids, because they never heard your sermons until they come first for politics, and then all of a sudden they get to hear the gospel. I think it's an amazing ministry opportunity as well.

Frank:

That's one of the things I love. Because even when you're at a political meeting, you are going to preach the gospel. That's amazing. You know, there's one other thing I've been thinking about with regard to this, Charlie. I think one of the reasons that pastors are concerned about speaking politically, or on political issues - and by the way, friends, everything's political now. I mean, the Bible is now political. Well, you know in Canada, the Bible is now political because it has verses in it that don't adhere to what the culture wants us to believe. And so, now people are saying, Well, you can't preach these verses. When are pastors finally gonna say: Okay, once they start taking the Bible from us, now I'm gonna get involved politically? But I digress.

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One of the problems I think that we have, Charlie, is that many pastors have mistakenly thought that the Sunday morning service is for unbelievers. It's not. The church is there to equip the saints to do ministry. Now, we don't want to run off unbelievers, and we want to welcome unbelievers to the service on Sunday morning, but that service is primarily for believers.

Charlie:

Yes.

Frank:

And if we're going to continually not speak certain truths because we're afraid unbelievers are in the audience, then we're not really ministering the proper way according to Ephesians 4. We're there to equip the saints to do ministry. Now, if there are non-saints in the audience, we want to treat them with the utmost care and respect. But that doesn't mean we're going to change our message. Once we start changing the message then we've got a problem, then we're no longer being salt and light that Jesus told us to be. So, I think that's another thing we need to keep in mind; the church is for believers not unbelievers. Again, we welcome unbelievers, we hope they come, but we're not going to cater or change the message because they're there.

Charlie:

I think that's smart. Yeah. And I don't know how much time we have in the segment. But I remember I brought a friend once to church and they were teaching out of Lamentations. And I said, Oh, boy, he's never going to come back. This is a bad idea. Why couldn't I come on the John 3:16? Lamentations, really? Was Leviticus not an option this week? And it was the most amazing thing. He gave his life to the Lord. It doesn't matter. I mean, the word the word of God is true, the Word of God does not turn up void, and so, be less worried of whether you're going to turn somebody off.

I learned this the hard way, Frank. I used to think I had to water down and pander when I go to college campuses. This was way long time ago. It is a lie from the enemy. Be the same person you are in public that you are in private. Have grace, have compassion, have a little self-deprecating humor, be vulnerable, but honest, be firm but fair, but do not waver from the truth.

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Frank:

Yeah. And you do that very well. And I'm so pleased that you're the next generation. Jack and I are, you know, in the 60s category now, and you're just bumping up against 30. So, I'm glad you're there, Charlie. And you are actually training a lot of people. When I visited you out there in Phoenix, I think one of your assistants said, We've got about 500 employees here and the average age is 22. And I'm going, Whoa! Really? 22? Now, what kind of resources do you have for pastors say - I know we're doing the pastor summit in California in August - but what kind of resources do you have at TP USA for pastors right now, so they can then equip their congregations with the truth?

Charlie:

Yeah, a couple things. And there's one thing that I don't think any pastor could possibly find disagreement with. I'll tell you that in a second. But first, we have biblical citizenship courses that we've partnered with the great Rick Green, from Patriot Academy on, who I just think is fabulous.

Frank:

Rick is great. Yep.

Charlie:

Yeah, we're co-partnering on that. And they've just been an amazing collaborative...great collaborative synergy there. We have a wide variety. Of course, the retreat, as I mentioned. We have Freedom Night in America that we could bring full-time staff to help run and bring guest speakers too. The other thing that we're doing, Frank - that I just mentioned previously, but I didn't say this specific stuff - we want to make sure the church is properly equipped to be able to address the issue of internet pornography. So, we're going to have a course taught by experts, taught with the right, technological information, brought to you by TP USA Faith, as just kind of an entry point. And by the way, if a church says we don't need that there, I would challenge you.

Now, you might already be doing it. That's a different thing. But I'm telling you, this is an issue that it's destroying families, it's destroying communities, it's destroying churches. I know that it's destroyed pastors as well. And so, that's kind of a non-civic, non-technically political thing

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that we're going to be offering. But I also think, Frank, it's a great entry point to greater moral questions of right and wrong. Who's to say this is wrong? Don't you have your own truth? I could do what I feel. And so, that's one where we see a lot of opportunity. And so, if they want, they can go to TPFaith.com. We have a variety of resources for them and a growing library of them that we can offer.

Frank:

TPFaith.com. Check it out pastors. And anybody can go there and check out the resources. And there's a lot more coming up with Charlie Kirk, of TPUSA.com. You can also check him out at CharlieKirk.com. In fact, I'm gonna throw some objections at Charlie in the final segment, stuff that you might hear on a college campus, and we'll see how Charlie deals with them. So, don't go anywhere. You're listening to I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist. We're back in two.

One thing you need to know about ladies and gentlemen, in this age of censorship and canceling, is the CrossExamined Community. The CrossExamined Community is a private community where you can join me, and the entire CrossExamined team, and talk about issues without fear of reprisal, without fear of being canceled, without your employer sniffing you out on Facebook to try and figure out what your views are. You can express your views and you can talk about issues you want to talk about and interact with me and the staff at the CrossExamined Community. To be a part of it go to CrossExamined.org, click on CrossExamined Community right at the top of our menu, and you'll see all about it there.

Okay, back to my guest, Charlie Kirk, of TP USA. Now, Charlie, just during the break we were talking about priorities. People get all spooked out when you start talking about politics. But you're not saying that politics are the most important thing, are you?

Charlie:

I never would say that. And no, I'm not saying that. I am saying that it has a place on the hierarchy. And the ability to be able to understand hierarchies is actually a Christian belief, to understand that some things matter [more] than others, and to be able to properly organize your time, your treasure, and your talents. And so, if Christians say there is no place on the hierarchy for my community, or my nation, or my government, that's just not biblical. At the very least, in First Timothy, letter to First Timothy from Paul, it says to pray for your leaders by

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name and the issues that they are dealing with. That's the very least, right. So, that requires awareness. So, what's going on with school board, your city council, your mayor? So, that's an initial challenge. Daniel fasted and prayed for his nation, right. And so, there's plenty of biblical examples to care about your government, to care about the nation, as it were. But look, also this, we're called to be good stewards. We are stewards of this nation. We are stewards of our Republic. And I believe we're biblically commanded to try to protect things that are good, true, and beautiful. And I do believe the United States of America is one of those things.

Frank:

Yes. And of course, if we're going to love people, one way we can love them is to put laws in place that protect them. And, you know, Christians have done this for centuries. You know, we got rid of gladiatorial combat, we got rid of child sacrifice, we got rid of child brides. I mean, things that are not controversial now, right. That's what Christians did throughout the Roman Empire. And nobody would say, Well, those weren't right. We got rid of slavery, you know, politically. And so, the issues of the day still are issues that Christians need to speak out on. If we don't speak out for life, who will? If we don't speak out for marriage, who will? If we don't speak out for religious freedom, the ability to preach and live the gospel, who will? So, ladies and gentlemen, while politics is not our first objective, or our first priority, it certainly is one of them.

And Charlie, you're doing a great job at Turning Point USA. And you're getting young people involved. That is so important. Let me ask you this. You said there's a couple thousand of these clubs around, a couple thousand of these chapters, Turning Point USA. If somebody's listening to this right now, they're a young person, they want to start a chapter, they want to get involved, what do they do?

Charlie:

TPUSA.com. I'll just keep saying that. It's a great launching off point. And thank you for the ability to plug it. They can start a high school or college chapter right there. We have over 100 full-time people on the ground across America. We have a high school division and a college division so they can get engaged, get involved, get into the grassroots to start a chapter today. We'd love to have anyone become a leader or member of Turning Point USA Today.

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Frank:

Now, Charlie, let's talk about some of these objections that you get on a college campus. You probably get more of these than I do, because when I go to a college campus, I'm just giving them the evidence that Christianity is true. Yeah, I'm gonna get LGBTQ objections. But you're going in with more of a message about America, and about political freedom, and about truth and politics. So, you're gonna attract a little bit more of these kinds of questions. So, suppose a trans-activist or just a trans person, or just somebody that thinks that giving hormone blockers to kids is a good thing gets up to the microphone and says: Charlie, who are you to say that I can't be who I want to be? That I shouldn't have pronouns that I want to have. That I'm trapped in the wrong body. Who are you to say I can't get out of it?

Charlie:

Yeah, so one question they will ask is this. They'll say, I believe I'm a woman, if they're a man. And I'll be honest, I'm not one to just give praise, Matt Walsh in what he did in his recent documentary is just an unbelievable piece of art. And so, you just ask them: So, what is that? What is a woman then? So, what is the thing that you think you are? And they say, Oh, well, a woman. No, no, no. Try to define a woman without using the word woman. And they'll kind of stumble over their words. Oh, so you don't have a definition for it. And so, look, this comes back down to a more fundamental question, which is, Okay, if you take hormone blockers in the privacy of your home, there's nothing I could probably do about that. If you wanted to shoot up with heroin, it'd be against the law, I think there should be laws against it. But let me ask you this: Would you be okay if I misgendered you? And they'd say, no. Oh, so it's not about your personal freedom, it's about policing the rest of the world to accommodate your own feelings. That's two totally different things.

If it was live and let live, I could probably come to some neutral ground. I won't approve of it. I won't, you know, say this is right. But I'm not going to all of a sudden say we need a police state to go after your private inklings in your closet. But that's not why you're here tonight. You're here tonight to say that I have to approve of you and your lifestyle. That's a totally different thing. So, that's how I'd respond to that. Because deep down, Frank, it's not about what they want to do, it's: Why won't you agree with what I do?

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Frank:

Why do you think people have to have other people agree with them in order to feel validated? Where does that come from?

It's a tyrannical impulse is what it is. And so, there's the four steps of liberalism. And unfortunately, I was naive many years ago to believe that these steps, kind of hyperbolic, wasn't going to happen. So, the first is they say, Hey, you must tolerate me as a trans person. And I think most Christians say, okay, we want to be compassionate. I'll tolerate it. But then they come back, they say, No, you must accept me. And then we're a little uncomfortable with that. We're like, well, I don't agree with that, but all right. And then they come back again, with more numbers and more funding and more infrastructure, and they say, You must celebrate me. Wait, hold on a second, this is a toleration to celebration? And then they say, You must participate. So, all of a sudden, we went from tolerating to participation. That's an evangelistic curve. It goes from one where they just want you to be like, Hey, let me be me, don't get in my way, live and let live, to it's not live and let live, it's live and let them rule. Two totally different things.

And so, I believe one of the great learning and teaching moments for American Christianity, and for mostly conservatives, is this lie that they're going to stay in their corner, and we'll stay in our corner, and we'll kind of do our own thing is so deceitful. In reality, it's that they get to do what they want to do, and they're going to tell us what we get to do. And I think a lot of Christians and conservatives are waking up to that. But it is an authoritarian impulse that I believe is actually at the root of liberalism.

Frank:

Yeah, it's as if there are two trains on the same track heading toward one another. One is the so-called LGBTQ rights, and the other are religious rights, or just freedoms of conscience, and one has to give way to another. And unfortunately, it looks like people who say that they have a certain sexual preference are going to impose that on everybody else.

Charlie:

That's right.

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Frank:

And tragically, as Christians, we obviously want to have our own freedoms, but we also care about the people who disagree with us. We're supposed to pray for our enemies, and we're supposed to tell them the truth about what they're doing. And Charlie, it baffles me - well, it doesn't totally baffled me - but we're now experimenting on children. We are giving them hormone blockers, we're giving them, even in some cases, surgery without parental consent. Yet 80% of these kids that have this gender dysphoria, so-called gender dysphoria, are gonna grow out of it by the time they're 18. Why don't people stand up to this and say we can't tolerate this? We're hurting children. In fact, Charlie, I think I've heard you say this, that 95% of the people agree this is a bad thing, but only 5% are going to speak up about it. Why is that? Charlie? How can we help equip people to speak up about it?

Charlie:

But because the alphabet mafia is willing to use force, and they're nasty people, I don't say that lightly. They will come and firebomb your home. They will put death threats, not all of them, but there is a group, a committed group, that use quasi-terroristic practices if you dare question them. And so, people are afraid, they're terrified. We're just going through this at Turning Point USA. We sent a reporter to the Pride Parade, whatever that is in LA, and there were five and six year olds who were being picked up by people wearing next to nothing, that were dancing in very graphic ways in the middle of the street, sexually. And so, we filmed it, we put it on Twitter, got millions of views, and they're coming after us, death threats, the whole thing.

We already have security. We're used to it, right, so we're not fazed by it. But that terrifies people. They don't want to be called a transphobe, whatever that means. And so, that kind of goes back to what I said previously, Frank, that they're willing to use force, and that they're using it, and people are just afraid. And so, the solution to that is, do not have a spirit of fear, obviously, do not be afraid. And understand that the fear is actually a lot worse than, you know, what actually will happen if you stand up against it. But in order for this to happen, the 95% that believe that men can't get pregnant and that children shouldn't be sexualized - which are basically two things that are now under debate - they need to be willing to be called bad names. That's it. If they have weaponized name calling, it's that simple.

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Frank:

Well, there's a way to get equipped. Charlie, you got two big events coming up. One is a student summit; one is a pastor summit. Tell us about those too quickly.

Charlie:

Yeah, so Student Action Summit (TPUSA.com/sas). We got Ron DeSantis. We got Donald Trump. We have a whole faith morning. We're gonna have three hours of worship and people giving their life to the Lord on that Sunday morning. It's going to be incredible. So, we'd love people to come. Greg Gutfeld will be there, Byron Donalds, Kayleigh McEnaney, you name it. So, it's gonna be a really diverse group of people. It will be a lot of fun. And then our pastor summit that you're going to be speaking at, Frank, 350 pastors and their wives (TPUSA.com/pastors).

Frank:

Check it out ladies and gentlemen. For those of you in the CrossExamined Community, we're going to have another five minutes with Charlie. So don't go anywhere or sign up for the CrossExamined Community. And also, don't forget about Charlie. He's dealing with some great issues, great insights, every day. His website is CharlieKirk.com. Check out his podcast there. I'm Frank Turek. I'll see you here next week, Lord willing. God bless.

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